

Principal SEFSC Fishery-Independent Surveys In Support of Stock Assessments

Survey	Description	Area of Operation	Frequency
U.S. Gulf of Mexico			
SEAMAP GOM Offshore Ichthyoplankton survey (Mississippi and Louisiana)	Surveys ichthyoplankton eggs and larvae in the spring and fall (May and September, respectively) off Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Florida.	State and federal waters off Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Florida.	Annual, May-Jun and Sept-Oct
SEAMAP Groundfish Survey	Survey abundance and distribution of benthic fauna in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico in depths of 5-60 fathoms.	U.S. Gulf of Mexico in depths of 5-60 fathoms.	Annual Summer (Jun, Jul) and Fall (Oct-Nov)
SEAMAP Groundfish/Shrimp Trawls Survey (Alabama)	Survey monitors the abundance and distribution of benthic fauna off Alabama and Florida in state and federal waters in depths of 5-60 fathoms.	Mississippi, Alabama and Florida in state and federal waters in depths of 5-60 fathoms.	Annual, Summer (Jun-Jul) and Fall (Oct-Nov)
SEAMAP Groundfish/Shrimp Trawls Survey (Louisiana)	Surveys abundance and distribution of benthic fauna off Louisiana, west of the Mississippi River in state and federal waters in depths of 6-200 ft.	Louisiana waters west of the Mississippi River in state and federal waters in depths of 6-200 ft.	Annual, Summer (Jun-Jul) and Fall (Oct-Nov)
SEAMAP Groundfish/Shrimp Trawls Survey (Texas)	Surveys abundance and distribution of benthic fauna in five specific sampling areas along the Texas coast, from the border of Louisiana to the border of Mexico. Sampling occurs in state waters and within nine nautical miles of shore.	Five sampling areas along the Texas coast, from the Louisiana border to Mexico: Sabine Pass, Aransas Pass, Bolivar Pass, Matagorda Pass, and border with Mexico. Sampling depths 6-96 ft.	Annual, Summer (Jun-Jul) and Fall (Oct-Nov)
SEAMAP Offshore Groundfish/Shrimp Trawls Survey (Mississippi)	Survey monitors the abundance and distribution of benthic fauna off Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida in state and federal waters in depths of 6-200 ft.	Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida in state and federal waters in depths of 6-200 ft.	Annual, Summer (Jun) and Fall (Oct)
SEAMAP Plankton Survey	Surveys the occurrence, abundance and geographical distribution of the early life stages of fishes. The pelagic habitat of fish larvae are recorded through measurements of various physical and biological parameters. Map the distribution of fish eggs along the cruise track using a Continuous Underway Fish Egg Sampler (CUFES).	Coastal, shelf and open ocean waters of the Gulf of Mexico	Annual, Feb-Mar (Winter), Apr-May (Spring), and Aug-Sep (Fall)
SEAMAP Reef Fish Survey	Surveys reef fish species. Data are also collected for biology, distribution, and stock structure. Reef fish are sampled for hardparts to produce biological information.	Brownsville, Texas to Key West, FL, in depths of 15-500 ft.	Annual, Apr-Jul
SEAMAP Small Pelagic Survey	Survey compliments the Fall Shrimp/Bottomfish survey and monitors the abundance and distribution of small pelagics (scad, herring, butterfish, etc.) in the Gulf of Mexico.	U.S. Gulf of Mexico in depths of 50-500 meters.	Annual, Oct-Nov
SEAMAP Summer Groundfish/Shrimp Trawls Survey (Florida)	Surveys the abundance and distribution of benthic fauna off in the eastern Gulf of Mexico from the Florida/Alabama border to Dry Tortugas, Florida, in depths of 30-360 ft.	Florida/Alabama border to Dry Tortugas, FL, in depths of 30-360 ft. Sampling occurs during day and night hours.	Annual, Jun-Jul

SEAMAP-GOM Coastal Inshore Bottom Longline Shark Survey (Mississippi)	Surveys inshore shark and fish species. Data are collected on the biology, distribution, movements, and stock structure. Fish are sampled for hardparts to produce biological information.	Mississippi Sound and south of Mississippi barrier islands--a 342 km ² area extending from West Cat Island to East Petit Bois Island and 6.4 km to the north and south of the islands.	Annual, Mar-Oct (one of the six areas sampled monthly)
SEAMAP-GOM Finfish Bottom Longline Survey (Louisiana)	Surveys inshore shark and fish species. Data are collected on the biology, distribution, movements, and stock structure. Fish are sampled for hardparts to produce biological information.	Off Louisiana west of the Mississippi river in state and federal waters. Sampling depths range from 12 to 600 ft.	Annual, Mar-Oct
SEAMAP-GOM Finfish Bottom Longline Survey (Texas)	Surveys inshore shark and fish species. Data are collected on the biology, distribution, movements, and stock structure. Fish are sampled for hardparts to produce biological information.	Two areas within 15 miles of Aransas Pass and Bolivar Roads Ship Channel, exclusively in state waters (up to nine nautical miles offshore). Sampling depths range from 10 to 65 ft.	Annual, Jun-Sep
SEAMAP-GOM Finfish Vertical Line Survey (Alabama) SEAMAP-GOM Finfish Vertical Line Survey (Louisiana)	Surveys abundance and distribution of reef fish in Alabama waters. Surveys abundance and distribution of reef fish in Louisiana waters west of the Mississippi River.	State and federal waters off Alabama. Stations are sampled during daylight hours. Sampling depths 60 to 500 ft. State and federal waters west of the Mississippi river, across three depth strata (60-120 ft, 120-180 ft, and 180-360 ft). Stations are sampled during daylight hours. Sampling depths 60 to 360 ft.	Annual, Mar-Apr, May-Jun, and Sep-Oct Annual, Quarterly
SEAMAP-GOM Ichthyoplankton survey (Alabama & Florida)	Ichthyoplankton surveys to collect larvae for red drum, king mackerel and other species.	State waters off Alabama out to 360 ft in depth. There are nine fixed stations near Mobile Bay, AL and from Alabama to Dry Tortugas, FL.	Annual, Aug-Sept
SEAMAP-GOM Inshore Finfish Bottom Longline Survey (Alabama)	Surveys inshore shark and fish species. Data are collected on biology, distribution, movements, and stock structure. Fish are sampled for hardparts to produce biological information.	One location in Mississippi Sound, another in Mobile Bay, and two south of Dauphin Island, AL	Annual, Mar-Oct
SEAMAP-MARFIM Reef Fish Monitoring (Florida)	Survey monitors relative indices of abundance of reef fishes to determine patterns in community structure, and habitat associations, along with regional catch, recruitment, demographics, and distribution.	West FL shelf from 26 degrees N to Dry Tortugas, FL.	Annual, July-Sept
Gulf of Mexico MPA Survey	The Madison-Swanson and Steamboat Lumps marine reserves on the West Florida Shelf protect spawning aggregations of gag grouper. Surveys habitat and species assemblages and tracks changes in reef fish abundance and distribution.	Madison-Swanson and Steamboat Lumps marine reserves on the West Florida Shelf	Annual, Feb-Mar
Gulf of Mexico Shark Pupping and Nursery (GULFSPAN) Survey	Mid-water gillnet survey to monitor juvenile shark populations in the coastal Gulf of Mexico. Survey is funded through HMS and has 4 collaborators: NOAA Fisheries Panama City Laboratory (lead), the Florida State University Coastal & Marine Laboratory, the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, and the University of South Alabama Dauphin Island Sea Laboratory.	1)--Upper Texas Coast (state waters only) including Galveston Bay System, Brazos River, Matagorda Bay System, and near-shore Gulf of Mexico 1.0-10.0 m; 2)--Gulf of Mexico coastline from MS through Pensacola, FL; 3)--FL Panhandle & NE FL including St. Andrew Bay, Crooked Island Sound, St. Joseph Bay, the Gulf of Mexico-side of St. Vincent Island, and Apalachicola Bay, FL (state waters only), and Alligator Point to Anclote Keys, FL.	Annual, April-Oct

Panama City Laboratory ROV Reef Fish Survey	Surveys temporal and spatial patterns in abundance of exploited and non-exploited reef fishes, community structure, habitat associations, and size structure on a cross-shelf series of low relief (0.2-1.5 m) and high relief (up to 10 m) rocky reefs during daytime hours.	NE Gulf of Mexico, inner to mid-shelf off Panama City, FL, 25-50 m depths	Annual, Oct-Nov
Panama City Laboratory Trap/Video Reef Fish Survey	Survey to produce age-based annual indices of abundance of reef fishes. Sampling occurs on rocky reefs and live bottom in inner and mid-shelf waters (8-50m) during daytime hours using a stationary camera array at every site, followed with a chevron trap at every other site.	Destin to Cedar Key, FL	Annual, May-Sep
Smalltooth Sawfish Abundance Survey	Surveys abundance of juvenile smalltooth sawfish in coastal southwest Florida (one of the most important regions for juveniles).	Ten Thousand Islands, FL, backcountry region, encompassing the northern end of Everglades National Park and Ten Thousand Island National Wildlife Refuge.	Annual Mar - Nov, 56 DAS (6-7 per trip)
Visual Coral Reef Habitat and Reef Fish Surveys - Tortugas (Gulf of Mexico)	Surveys abundance and size of reef fishes, and characterize bottom habitat features	Dry Tortugas area in the Gulf of Mexico, <33m deep	Annual, May-Sep
U.S. Gulf and South Atlantic			
Longline Shark/Red Snapper Survey	Surveys shark and reef fish species. Data are collected for the biology, distribution, movements, stock structure. Surveys involve catching sharks on longline gear, measuring, attaching various tags, and releasing them alive. Fin fish are sampled for hardparts to produce biological information.	Cape Hatteras, North Carolina to Cape Canaveral, FL and into the Gulf of Mexico to Brownsville, TX between bottom depths 9 - 366 m in the Gulf of Mexico and 9 - 183 m in the Atlantic.	Annual, Jul-Sep
Pelagic Longline	Longline survey of shark and fish species. Data are collected on biology, distribution, movements, stock structure. Random survey site selection based on significant oceanic (Gulf Stream or loop currents), or bathymetric features (continental shelf edge).	Cape Hatteras, NC, to Cape Canaveral, FL, and in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico	Bi-annual, March - May
U.S. South Atlantic			
South Atlantic Reef Fish Trap-Video Survey	Surveys of reef fish species (SAFMC snapper-grouper management complex) in U.S. South Atlantic using chevron fish traps and underwater video. Collects life-history samples to generate age-growth and reproductive data.. The survey is a cooperative effort between MARMAP (SCDNR), SEAMAP-SA, and the NMFS SEFSC-SEFIS group.	Cape Hatteras, NC, to St. Lucie Inlet, FL	Annual, April-Oct

SEAMAP South Atlantic Coastal Trawl Survey (SC)	Surveys the distribution and relative abundance of resident and transient fishes, elasmobranchs, decapod and stomatopod crustaceans, sea turtles, horseshoe crabs, and cephalopods that are accessible by high-rise trawls. Additional data are recorded for priority species include measurements of length or width for all priority species, sex and individual weights for blue crab, sharks, and horseshoe crabs, and reproductive information on commercially important penaeid shrimp and blue crabs.	Cape Hatteras, North Carolina (35° 13.2'N) and Cape Canaveral, Florida (28° 30.0'N)	Annual, Apr-May (Spring), Jul-Aug (Summer), and Oct-Nov (Fall)
Visual Coral Reef Habitat and Reef Fish Surveys - Florida Keys and SE Florida Shelf	Surveys abundance and size of reef fishes, and characterize bottom habitat features	Florida Keys and SE Florida Shelf, <33m deep	Annual, May-Sep
U.S. Caribbean Sea			
Caribbean Recruitment Experiment	Surveys ichthyoplankton forms of coral reef fish species in the U.S. Caribbean; develops larval indices for snapper, parrot fish, and grouper; and determines seasonal abundances, and population connections between islands and with the upstream sources.	Caribbean and Mexican waters	Bi-Annual, Feb or Jun
Caribbean Reef Fish Survey	Surveys abundance of reef fish and elasmobranchs on the shelf waters of Puerto Rico and USVI using video cameras, fish traps, vertical lines and bottom longlines.	Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands, continental shelf waters	Every two years, Mar-Jun
SEAMAP-Finfinch Vertical Hook-and-Line Survey (Puerto Rico)	Surveys lane snapper in the territorial waters of Puerto Rico. Data are collected for life history, distribution, movements, stock structure.	West and east coasts of Puerto Rico in territorial waters at depths ranging from 15-300 ft.	Annual, Jan-Dec
SEAMAP-Lane Snapper Bottom Longline Survey (Puerto Rico)	Surveys fish in the territorial waters of Puerto Rico. Data are collected on the biology, distribution, movements, and stock structure.	East, west, and south coasts of Puerto Rico in territorial waters at depths ranging from 15-300 ft.	Annual beginning 2015, (summer, winter, fall, spring)
SEAMAP-Queen Conch Visual Surveys (Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands)	Surveys queen conch within the territorial sea of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and the contiguous EEZ. Queen conch abundance and density are estimated by visual census surveys conducted along predetermined compass headings by SCUBA divers using diver propulsion vehicles. There is no extraction and/or collection of queen conch.	U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico territorial waters in 10-90 ft depths, some sampling occurs in federal waters.	Annual, USVI, Jun-Oct; PR, Jul-Nov
SEAMAP-Spiny Lobster Artificial Habitat Surveys (Puerto Rico)	Surveys juvenile spiny lobster recruitment to artificial shelters within the territorial sea of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and the contiguous EEZ. During each survey the number of juvenile lobsters is counted within each shelter and carapace length measured. There is no extraction and/or collection of the resource.	U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico territorial waters in 6-90 ft depths	Annual, USVI, Jan-Dec; PR, Jan-Dec

SEAMAP-Yellowtail Snapper Rod-and-Reel Survey (Puerto Rico)	Surveys yellowtail snapper in the territorial waters of Puerto Rico. Data are collected on biology, distribution, movements, and stock structure.	East, west, and south coasts of Puerto Rico in territorial waters in depths from 15-300 ft	Annual beginning 2014, (summer, winter, fall, spring)
Visual Coral Reef Habitat and Reef Fish Surveys - U.S. Caribbean	Surveys abundance and size of reef fishes, and characterize bottom habitat features	U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, <33m deep	Annual, May-Sep